Name:_____

NASA/Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM)
TOPIC#3: El Niño/La Niña

Activity #3: Interpreting a Satellite Image -El Nino/ La Nina

OBJECTIVE: To interpret a NASA/TRMM 1997-1998 Anomaly Map of sea surface temperatures.

MATERIALS: a copy of Activity #3, a computer with Internet Access or color copies of the TMI Anomaly Map Product **(http://www.ssmi.com/tmiAnomaly.html**

PROCEDURE:
Use the TRMM satellite image located at the following the Internet address: http://www.ssmi.com/tmiAnomaly.html to answer the questions.
Key: Colors indicate the amount of difference from normal temperature in degrees Celsius ranging from purple (cooler –2˚ C) to red (warmer +2 ˚ C).

1. Go to the color key at the bottom of the list of maps. List the colors in order of warmest to coolest._____

2. What color indicates an approximate temperature of 1˚ C warmer than normal? _____

3. Describe the location of the highest concentration of red in the Pacific Ocean during January 1998. _____

4. Compare February 1998 and May 1998. How has the pool of warm water changed near the northwest coast of South America?_____

_____

5. Describe the temperature of the central region of the Pacific Ocean by June 1998.

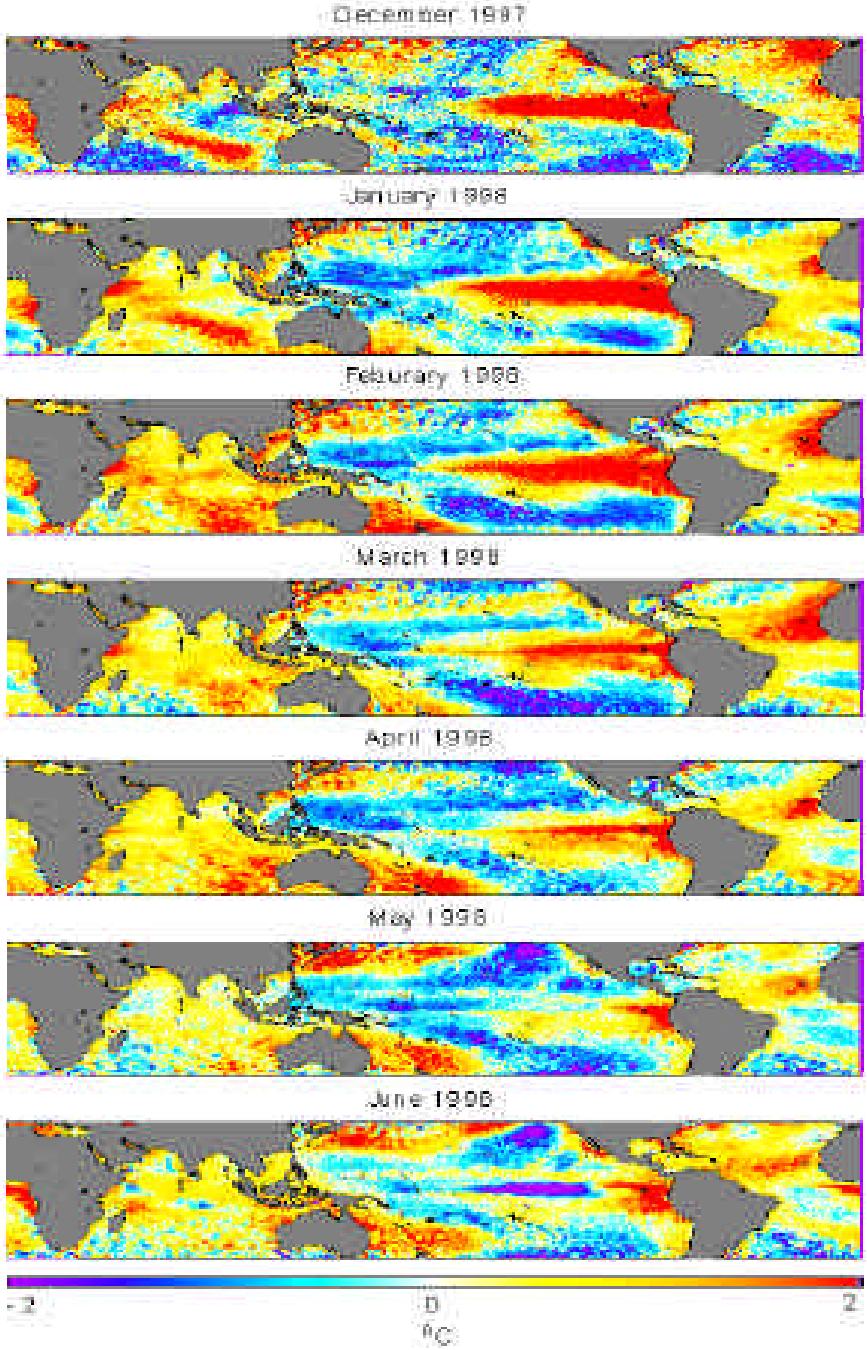
_____

6. What month shows the warmest water off the west coast of North America?

_____ When is the water coolest off this coast? _____

7. When is the water the warmest off the north coast of Australia? _____

When is it the coldest? _____


December 1997
January 1998
February 1998
March 1998
April 1998
May 1998
June 1998
-2
0
2
°C